

The Lower Coast Gazette

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE LOWER COAST GAZETTE CO.
F. C. MEYERS, President; S. B. MEYERS, Secretary.
POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, LOUISIANA.
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
PLAQUEMINES PARISH POLICE JURY,
PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD,
PLAQUEMINES PARISH EAST BANK LEVEE DISTRICT,
GRAND PRAIRIE LEVEE DISTRICT,
LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT,
BURAS LEVEE DISTRICT

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SATURDAY APRIL 10RD, 1909.

Good Roads For Plaquemines Parish.

The civilization of a people is often said to be gauged by the roads they have. The Romans, when conquering the rest of Europe built roads wherever they went. Some of the Roman roads remain to this day, evidencing the broad and comprehensive views that the Romans had as to how to build up a country. The American Indian, on the other hand, built no roads, but preferred the buffalo trails all over the country, these animals having learned the best routes over the country just as have also the migratory birds.

There is no parish in Louisiana where good roads, or reasonably good roads can be had as cheaply as in Plaquemines parish, and yet the complaint is now made that for miles and miles we have practically no roads at all; that we are going backward perhaps to the condition of the primitive Indian who wanted no roads if he had to build them. Good roads cost some money and the trouble in our parish is that in its jutting out into the Gulf as it does, it forms a double peninsula and with our parish one hundred miles long we must have that much road on each side of the river, or two hundred miles of road in all, two hundred miles of public road for 12,000 people means a mile of road for ever sixty people.

Now in our level country where we have no expensive bridges to build, road building can be reduced to simplest elements. We may in time have graded or macadamized roads, but just let us first just get some sort of roads and then improve them as we can. It doesn't seem any great hardship to ask sixty people to maintain one mile of road. Sixty people would furnish 12 men ordinarily and under existing law we collect from them or should collect \$1 from each or \$12 per mile. This is not enough. Apart from this tax we should collect all the contributory taxes for road purposes, but outside the per capita tax such collections would not amount to much.

In some of the parishes, St. Mary is one of them we believe, it has been found that when a road is once placed in good order it can be kept in order for \$25 per mile per year. The trouble with us is to get our roads in good order for the first time. As we all know there should be a shallow ditch at the base of the levee, a rounded up road bed of 20 to 25 feet next, and then a transportation ditch some three feet with a proper and unobstructed outlet. All low places will require boxes or trunks across of it. All this could be done under \$50 per mile and the 200 miles would require \$10,000 to place them in order, some costing more and some less.

We may remember that much of this work is already done and the rest can be done gradually. We are endeavoring to show that we can readily have good dirt roads but that we are not trying in earnest to secure them. Last year it was proposed at one time not even to collect the per capita tax which yielded a few hundred dollars could be made to yield \$2,400 if every good citizen would do his best to promote its collection, but we need taxation equal to \$25 per mile front annually for road purposes and special appropriations to put good roads where there are none now or where the roads need practical reconstruction.

If a campaign of education be carried on, the friends of good roads would see to it that \$2,000 should be realized from the per capita tax. Now we need one and one-fourth mills for road work at the discretion of the Police Jury. This would give us \$2500 additional fund for good roads and if the Police Jury would stand firm and say they can only help those who help themselves, and that the appropriations out of this \$2,500 can only go to the wards in the proportion to the per capita taxes that the wards collect, strenuous efforts would develop all along the line to collect the per capita taxes. We should then have about \$5,000 annually for the maintenance of our 200 miles of road, and we should gradually get them into good shape, just as has been done with the public levees. Travel throughout the parish would become easy, neighbors could more easily visit each other and everyone would be benefited.

We hardly need here discuss the economic side of the good roads question. It is now admitted everywhere that good roads are essential to modern life. In the country one break down sometimes costs as much as would maintain a mile of road in good order. The damage done by bad roads is said by some of our statisticians to cost the people of the United States five hundred millions of dollars yearly. No wonder then that we are now arriving at the conclusion that it is time to stop this waste.

Our neighboring parish of St. Bernard is setting an example for all the parishes of the state. Her people have levied special taxes to pay for roads and the river front of that parish is practically a shell road from the Jackson barracks to Poydras plantation. Her roads command the admiration of everyone who travels on them. Can't we do equally well in our progressive Plaquemines Parish?

Figs and Blackberries in Louisiana.

As will be seen by an article in another column of this journal which we reprint from the Beaumont Enterprise, the culture of figs is taking on large proportions in Texas. Louisiana figs have long been celebrated for their excellence, but their culture is so as to have attracted but little attention. Figs can be propagated easily from cuttings and a single fig tree in fair bearing condition will supply a daily basket of ripe fruit for the family use for several weeks.

The very perishable character of figs has prevented them from securing any such status as have oranges, but they are very valuable as a domestic food for the whole household and by cultivating early and late varieties the season of their consumption can be prolonged several weeks, making a season of six or eight weeks in all. Fresh figs are one of the most luscious dishes that can be had in Louisiana, but must be consumed quickly after gathering or they will sour.

Our canning factories have thus far hardly done justice to Louisiana figs. They can be canned as easily as peaches and as cheaply as tomatoes, and yet when they have been canned they are held at high prices and these high prices have prevented them from securing that popular demand that peaches have. Figs are so easily grown that they should become a staple fruit of the poor and the rich alike. The small canning outfits that can now be had for a few dollars will enable every family to put up its own figs,

whether as fresh figs, preserved figs or fig jam. It is said that the fig is the farmers savings bank. The pig can consume all the figs that the family can't eat or can, and the pigs will grow fat on them if they get enough of them. The fig or rather the fig tree is practically a savings bank for whomever has it. The same equivalent in good food can't be got as easily in any other way as by fig culture. Blackberries have now come in Plaquemines parish and the bushes are laden with them and they are excellent while they last. They, however, are wild and uncontrollable. You may plant them just where you want them, and they will die out, but they grow almost anywhere of their own sweet will and seem to resent human intervention, at least here in Louisiana, while the fig welcomes it. Our domestic canneries in the country will now have hands full of blackberries for six or eight weeks, first of the purple stalk or dewberry variety and later of the sweeter variety, the green stalked blackberry. The dewberries are sometimes called low-bush blackberries because of the trailing growth, and the others high-bush, because they often grow higher than a man can reach.

Blackberries are so very black that while they make fine jellies, preserves and jam, they are so dark in color as not to compare with strawberries in popularity. Yet they are a valuable asset to us and if we develop the small cannery idea as we readily can and certainly should, we can save thousands of dollars in our own domestic food stuffs and also sell thousands of dollars worth to others. Let us develop and utilize our fig crop and control and utilize our blackberry.

Court Proceedings.

The Grand Jury of the Parish of Plaquemines was duly impaneled with Robt. S. Moore as foreman, and the following named members to wit: Gustave Michel, John W. Bick, Rudolph WALTER, Joseph Stockfleth, Adolph Martin, W. A. Rodriguez, Chas. W. Fox, N. W. Lemon, Leo Rigand, Lucien Caro and Geo. Grobb.

Pointe-a-la-Hache, La., April 5, '09. To the Hon. R. Emmet Hingle, Judge of the 29th Judicial District Court.

Dear Judge:—We desire to report that we have visited the parish jail and find the prison well kept and the prisoners well cared for; but we recommend that the inside of the jail be painted yearly.

We have examined a number of matters brought to our attention by the District Attorney and have reported each individual case after a thorough examination of the witnesses presented to us.

There would be a certain expense incurred should the prisoners be worked on the public road, and we doubt whether the game would be worth the candle; the question is left by law to the Police Jury and they are the proper parties to take the matter up.

In reference to the work that is being done on the public roads we have heard some complaint as to the work done in certain places and we recommend to the Police Jury, that if it is not now being done, that they require each individual member of the Police Jury to furnish quarterly a detailed statement of the amount spent on the public roads in his district and that said detailed statement be made part of the minutes of the Police Jury.

In reference to the complaint made as to the work that is being done by the Plaquemines Parish East Bank Levee Board, we believe that the Board is doing the best thing that can be done under the circumstances and that the said board is entitled to a great deal of praise for the work that has been done.

We desire to thank the Court and its officers for their kind assistance during our labor.

ROBT. S. MOORE, Foreman.

The following civil cases were fixed for trial. Chas. Larendon, vs. J. Tallen Doudrive on acceptance Monday, April 12th.

State ex. rel. vs. John Bernard Fasting, April 8, at 10 o'clock.

Toby Rodney, et. als. vs. A. Gussard, fixed for April 8, at 10 o'clock.

The following criminal cases were fixed for trial.

State of La. vs. Octave Treadaway, for violating Act 87 of 1908; fixed for trial Monday, April 12th.

State of La. vs. Ferdinand Gray, for abduction, fixed for trial Tuesday, April 13th.

State vs. Polite Noel, petty larceny; fixed for trial Monday, April 12th.

State of La. vs. Henry K. Powell, assault with intent to commit rape; fixed for trial Tuesday, April 13th.

State of La. vs. Theo. Dinet, petty larceny; trial on Monday last. Found guilty by the Court, and sentenced to term of sixty days in the parish jail.

State of La. vs. Alzina Theophile, indicted for murder by the Grand Jury.

State vs. Theo. Stafford, indictment for violating Act 84 of 1908.

State of La. vs. Ant. J. LaFrance, indictment for libel; released for trial on a bond in the sum of \$500.

State of La. vs. Theo. Stafford, fixed for trial Wednesday, April 14th.

State vs. John Biennais, malicious injury to sugar house. Case fixed for trial on Wednesday, April 14th.

State vs. Oswald Reed, assault with a dangerous weapon, with intent to kill. Case fixed for trial on Wednesday April 14th.

State of La. vs. Andrew Cashey assault and battery. Case fixed for trial on Thursday, April 15th.

State of La. vs. Alvina Morris, assault and battery.

State of La. vs. John Hirsch, breaking and entering with intent to murder. Case fixed for trial on Thursday, April 15th.

River News

The contract for building the 17 cottages at Burrwood, was let to Mr. P. Ekald of Biloxi, Miss., on the 24 ult. There were several bidders, but Mr. Ekald proved to be lowest. Mr. Ekald is not a new factor in government work, as will be remembered, he was just lately engaged in closing the small bayous in and around Burrwood. The manner in which he executed this previous contract tends to indicate the quickness and correctness with which he will execute this present one and the

confidence the government has placed in him.

The U. S. steamer St. John has been compelled to go to New Orleans to have her rudder repaired. She seems to be unfortunate with break downs. Her Chief Engineer, Mr. E. Wagner took advantage of this trip to the city and bought himself a fine gold watch, paying something like \$125 for the timepiece. Mr. Wagner had a watch—a cheap one—but he could not depend on its time. Now the Chief is a very positive fellow, and wanting to be accurate in taking his medicine, which was labeled "poison" and had to be taken on the second, concluded to make this purchase. We understand things are all right now. Mrs. Mallory Reed, the estimable wife of Mr. Mallory Reed, chief mate of the U. S. dredge, Benyard, has arrived at Burrwood to reside. Judge Geo. W. Delesdemir went to Pointe-a-la-Hache this week on court affairs.

The only thing that we see that Burrwood is lacking in is a barber shop. Several of our friends there, say they would be willing to tax themselves in order to support one. The Ice Plant is nearing completion, which shows that the superintendent, Mr. Brown has built plants of that kind before. The machine shop is now next in order and we understand that parts will be shipped down next week and work begun on it at once.

Mrs. Jos. Denis is on a visit to her parents Mr. and Mrs. F. Blaise in Venice.

The growing crops were suffering from the dry spell, in and around Buras but a copious rainfall on Wednesday, greatly relieved the situation.

Reports from the salt works are that the oyster grounds are being covered with young oysters, which are growing thick and fast on the shells of dead oysters, lying there for several years and have never before showed signs of young growth on them. This feature is due altogether to the recent closing of Baptiste Collet Gap which heretofore permitted volumes of river water to enter the oyster water in the rear of the saltworks and work incalculable damage upon the oyster fishermen. These fishermen are today singing praises to the State Board of Engineers and the gentlemen who were instrumental in its closing.

Sergeant Paquet of Fort St. Philip, had as a visitor this past week, his sister who resides in New York. Miss Paquet proved to be a most charming entertainer and is delighted with our southern climate.

Dr. P. D. Brown and Sergeant McCann of Ft. St. Philip, were both visitors to New Orleans this week. The doctor says that he will be a voter at the next election and will make a run for Parish Treasurer the next time as he feels, from the recent outburst of editorials in our local newspapers, that the job must be a paying one.

Parish Democratic Executive Committee.

Pointe-a-la-Hache, La., April 7, '09. A meeting of the Parish Democratic Executive Committee took place this day, with the following members present in person and by proxy, to-wit: 1st ward, J. B. Fasting, proxy, Julius Strack; 2nd ward, Julius Strack; 3rd ward, Jos. Cosse; 3rd ward, Jos. Savole; 4th ward, B. J. Williams, proxy, F. C. Meyers; 4th ward, F. L. Lobrano; proxy, F. C. Meyers; 5th ward, Jos. Bernard; 5th ward, M. G. Buras, proxy, Jos. Bernard; 6th ward, C. R. Sarpy; 6th ward, John Arnolis, proxy, F. C. Meyers; 7th ward, Roselius Perez; 7th ward, Eoli Giordano, proxy, Roselius Perez; 9th ward, Frank Giordano; 10th ward, Marc Cognevich;

AT LARGE: John Dymond, chairman; F. C. Meyers; Geo. Fried, proxy, F. C. Meyers; Jos. Hingle, proxy, M. Cognevich; Capt. Ben. Michel, proxy, S. Leopold.

The chair stated that this meeting was for the purpose of ordering a primary election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of our Clerk of Court, the late A. P. Alberti, and that all candidates for the office shall be allowed ten days to file their application with this committee.

By Mr. F. C. Meyers, resolved that all applications be mailed to Chairman John Dymond at Belair P. O. or at Pointe-a-la-Hache P. O. and that this committee hold a meeting on the 19th inst. and primary election to take place on the 21st inst., adopted.

On motion of Mr. F. C. Meyers, duly seconded, all applicants shall be required to make a deposit of one hundred dollars, \$100, when filing their applications with the chairman.

On motion of Mr. Perez, duly seconded, resolved that a primary election be ordered in the 10th ward on the 21st inst. to nominate one democratic candidate for member of this committee for that ward.

On motion of Mr. Giordano, duly seconded, the committee adjourned. JOS. SAVOIE, Secretary.

PARISH NEWS.

Pointe-a-la-Hache.

The body of an unknown white man was found floating in the river at upper Pointe-a-la-Hache about five miles above the Courthouse last Monday morning. The body was that of a white man apparently about forty years of age and about 5 foot 7 inches in height. Weight about 160 pounds; had brown hair and a red mustach. Wore neat grey pants, white silk negligee shirt, white elastic underclothes, brown socks and lace shoes. The Coroner was summoned and held an inquest. Nothing was found on his person by which he could be identified excepting a silver watch with inscription on back of watch L. Rantz and a new Rolled Gold watch chain. The body was buried where it was found.

The Parish Democratic Executive Committee met on Wednesday 7th inst. to consider the nomination and election of a Clerk of Court to succeed Hon. A. P. Alberti, deceased, and ordered a primary election to be held for the Democratic nomination on Wednesday, 21st inst. All candidates must have their announcements in the hands of the Chairman, Hon. John Dymond, or his deputy, F. C. Meyers Esq. by Saturday night April 17th, the application to be accompanied by \$100 cash. The committee will meet again April 19 to consider the announcements and to arrange for the election. An election was ordered in the 10th ward to fill the vacancy on the committee created by the death of Hon. A. P. Alberti.

The large barn on Bohemia Plantation owned by Jac Bokenfohr of New Orleans, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night. The barn contained, one new engine and thresher, five carts, harness, implements, seeds, etc. all of which was a total loss. Cause of fire unknown.

The drowned body found floating in the river at upper Pointe-a-la-Hache last Monday, was claimed by relatives yesterday, and taken to New Orleans for burial. The body proved to be that of the unfortunate Alfred L. Rousseau, the dairyman that disappeared from New Orleans some ten days ago.

John Journee, ex chief of police of New Orleans, and his nephew, L. Rousseau, were visitors at Pointe-a-la-Hache on Thursday.

Ste. Sophie.

Hon. S. Leopold was very busy this week, visiting various points of the levee, every day, often starting as early as five a. m.

Mrs. Geo. Wies and Miss Hill, of Monsecour, were in Ste. Sophie Wednesday evening, calling at Mrs. Dobson's. Master Foster Dobson and Miss Alice accompanied them on their return.

Mr. V. O. Schayot of Pointe-a-la-Hache was in this place on Saturday. Messrs. Haapel, Davis and Leopold will shortly plant about two hundred acres of rice at Burbridge.

Master Foster Dobson went to Pointe-a-la-Hache on Sunday to attend church. Mr. Paul Gravrolet of Harlem is engaged in sowing rice.

Mr. Davis Dobson, Mr. W. H. Cross and Mr. Wilt LaFrance of this ward will attend the Court at Pointe-a-la-Hache on Monday as jurors.

The people of Phoenix grieve in sympathy with Mrs. Gleason of Belair, in her great loss through the death of her husband. Mr. Felix LaFrance and little daughter, Agnes, went to New Orleans Saturday morning, returning Sunday morning.

Nairn.

The Nairn school children have organized a Basket Ball Club. It will be a question of but a few weeks before they will have a team ready for work.

Miss Irene Louderbough spent last Thursday evening with her aunt Mrs. Theo. Brown. Miss Annette Pelas of Buras was a guest at the home of Mrs. L. Gauffray during the week.

Miss Mallie Chauvin entertained a number of her friends at a croquet game last Saturday. Mr. Robt. Brown spent Sunday in Daisy.

Two games of base ball have been played between the Nairn and Point Pleasant teams and in both the Nairn team won by a large score.

Mr. Comander visited his place "Reserve" last week.

Jesuits' Bend.

Miss Leah Perez was one of the many teachers who attended the meeting at Alexandria. She reports a pleasant trip. Miss Lillian McNeely was the guest of Miss Leah Perez on Sunday.

Mr. Nichols spent Sunday here, the guest of Mr. C. Grabert. Miss M. Bernard of New Orleans is the guest of Mrs. E. Dolce.

Easter is approaching and with it promises of joy and good will. May the Gazette have a very happy Easter and continued success.

For Sale.

At auction, on Saturday, May 1, at 2 o'clock, p. m. Orange Grove, 1 arpent 4 by 40 deep; situated in Buras La., in the heart of the orange belt.

This property has 8 arpents planted in orange trees; about one half in bearing. Crop of 1908 is estimated at getting worth \$1000. Highest bidder gets this splendid piece of property.

Terms cash. For further particulars apply to J. B. FASTERLING, Buras, La.

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LOUISA AND DAUPHINE STREETS.

In Memoriam.
Pontre-a-la-Hache, La., April 8th, '09. Whereas it has pleased an allwise Providence to remove from the scene of his earthly labors Antoine Paul Alberti, who, after months of painful suffering, has gone to his rest; Whereas the life and conduct of A. Paul Alberti as a husband, father and friend, has endeared his memory to all who knew him;

Whereas by his modest life, his rectitude, his hospitality and his amiability he has earned the love and esteem of all good people; and Whereas in the death of the late A. Paul Alberti this Court has lost an able upright and painstaking officer;

Be it hereby resolved, that the members of this bar deplore the loss of our late clerk of Court in the zenith of his official career, and offer this written chaplet of praise as a tribute to his virtues and worth and ask that the said resolutions be inscribed on the minutes of the Court, copies to be furnished his family and the press, and that the Court do now adjourn out of respect to his memory.

JAMES WILKINSON, OLIVER S. LIVAUDAIS, N. H. NUNEZ, EDWIN C. KOHN, JOHN DYMOND, JR.

David Gleason.
David Gleason, of Belair, died at the Turo infirmary in New Orleans, on Friday April the second. He had gone there for treatment and owing perhaps to defective heart action, died under the influence of anesthesia. Mr. Gleason was a man of about 54 years of age and was a resident of this parish for many years. He was reared in the parish of St. James and soon engaged in the sugar engineering work and was for years associated with one of the most prominent sugar engineers of St. James parish. He came into Plaquemines parish years ago to do engineering work in the Promised Land sugar house and later was engaged at Scarsdale, at Braithwaite, at the paper mill and lately for several years at Belair. He leaves his wife and seven children six boys and one girl. A sister, Mrs. Howe lived in Algiers, and a brother at St. James parish. His wife was Miss Caro of the well-known Caro family of the second ward.

Mr. Gleason's death was entirely unexpected and came as a thunderbolt so his family. He was a man that everyone loved and respected. He was quiet, earnest, unassuming and always ready to do his best. His death is sincerely deplored by all who knew him and the sympathies of hundreds of friends and relatives go out to the distressed widow and children in their hours of sorrow.

Mr. Gleason remains were brought to Belair where the funeral services were conducted on Sunday by Father Kellogg of the Jesuits' Bend Church. The interment was in the family tomb of the Bertrand's on Star Plantation.

Theodore Pierre Bertrand.
Just as our last issue was being made up we learned of the death of Mr. Theodore Bertrand at his home on Woodlawn plantation. The death of this young gentleman deserves more than the short notice we were able to get in our last issue. We knew him from his childhood clear through to his manhood and on to the end of his young life when he became a victim of the great white plague.

Mr. Bertrand was a member of one of the oldest families in the parish, and the present village of Bertrandville belonged to and was founded by his grandfather. In the old open kettle sugar-making days the Bertrands were famous sugar house brick masons and their handiwork was sought by every one interested. Young Theodore became a plantation manager and was so employed on Belair plantation for some years. He made an essay in locomotive engineering and it seems probable that in this he laid the foundations for his early death. He contracted severe colds and finally abandoned that kind of work and returned to the cane fields where his management was appreciated and sought. In time he abandoned this work again and sought the dry air of Western Texas hoping to recover from laryngeal tuberculosis which had fastened itself upon him. Failing this he went to Covington and earnestly worked for recovery there. All these efforts failing he came home to his native parish to die and on Thursday, April first he died. He struggled manfully for life and failed. We who knew him best will long remember the quiet, dignified and able man, the good friend and fellow worker. Mr. Bertrand married Miss Olivia Hewett of New Orleans a year or two ago, who with one child now survive him.

Died.
Pierre LeFrance, an old resident of this place died suddenly on Wednesday night the seventh, at the age of 64. He leaves many relatives and friends to mourn his loss. Interment took place at St. Thomas cemetery at 10 o'clock a. m. yesterday.

Order
State of Louisiana
Parish of Plaquemines
29th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
It is hereby ordered that the sessions of this Court shall hereafter be held as follow to-wit:
One week beginning the first Tuesday of each January, February, March, May, June, July, November and December; July terms two weeks beginning the first Monday of April and October' the whole to be governed by the business before the Court.
It is further ordered that the Clerk shall make entry hereof on the minutes of the Court and cause due publication of the same to be made in the official journal of this parish according to law.
Parish of Plaquemines
January 5, 1909.
R. EMMET HINGLE
Judge.
A true copy.
ERNEST ALBERTI
Dy. Clerk.